

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/814,585

Applicant(s)

DOLAN ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Amir Alavi

2621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to The Request for Continued Examination of 02 May 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-28,30-32 and 34-47 (now renumbered as 1-45).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 22 March 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Response to Arguments

- Applicant's arguments, see page 4, lines 4-18, filed 02 May 2005, with respect to claims 28 and 30-32 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of these claims has been withdrawn.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

- The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed to an imaging system. Independent claim 1 identifies the uniquely distinct feature, "for wherein a backing in opposing relationship with an object having a second background color substantially the same as a first background color and wherein an imaging system determines at least one general bounding region of said object based upon a shadow cast onto said backing by said object"; Independent claim 28 identifies the uniquely distinct feature, "for wherein said imaging system determines at least one general bounding region of said object by

converting a first color space of an image obtained from sensing said object to a second color space where the luminance of said image is enhanced over the first color space for determining said at least one boundary of said object";

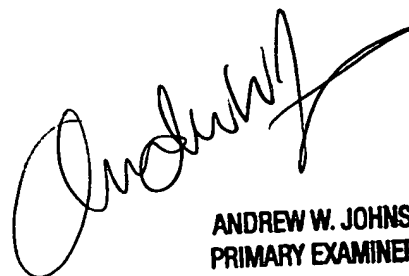
Independent claim 34 identifies the uniquely distinct feature, "for wherein an image obtained from sensing said object has a plurality of horizontal rows of pixels, said imaging system dividing said horizontal rows of pixels in a plurality of groups, each of said groups including a plurality of said horizontal rows of pixels, computing a statistical measure in a direction traverse to said horizontal row of pixels, using said statistical measure in determining said at least one boundary of said object". The closest prior art, Wiggins (USPN 4,538,185), discloses platen cover for document boundary detection in raster scanners; while Dobbs et al. (USPN 5,130,789), disclose localized image re-coloring using ellipsoid boundary function, either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render the above underlined limitation obvious.

- Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amir Alavi whose telephone number is 571-272-7386.
- The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu.. 8:00 am thru 6:30pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Joseph Mancuso can be reached on 571-272-7695.
- The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.
- For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AA
Group Art Unit 2621
29 June 2005



ANDREW W. JOHNS
PRIMARY EXAMINER